



CINCINNATI COMMUNITY VIDEO

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HM 87-268

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March 21, 1997

The Hon. Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street
Suite 814
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

On behalf of the Alliance for Community Media, fellow users of my community access center, non-profit groups around the country, and American taxpayers, I respectfully urge you and other members of the Commission to delay issuing "digital" licenses to the broadcast television industry until such time as they are ready to use them, and to demand that television broadcasters compensate the federal government for their use of public property.

As you may know, a number of representatives of the broadcasting industry have announced within the past few weeks that their plans to implement "digital television" have been delayed, with most industry sources stating that the spectrum will be used for the purposes for which it was intended no earlier than 1999, and perhaps even later than that. In the meantime, it is likely that they will begin to use the spectrum for non-television services - services for which the rest of the wireless telecommunications industry has paid market-based rates at public auction. In addition to giving away a valuable public resource, this move will also have the effect of giving broadcasters an unfair competitive advantage in relation to other wireless information service providers.

This is \$70 billion that could be used to provide support to public, educational and governmental ("PEG") access to the broadcast media. Non-commercial, non-profit PEG is a highly successful model for creating and promoting citizen involvement in local affairs. PEG access support distance learning, community involvement, and democratic discourse over a variety of media. Now the Commission has an opportunity to give non-profit entities and individuals the ability to generate and disseminate information using the vastly increased carrying capacity of digital television. Funds generated by the sale of digital spectrum at auction could help our children and extend the benefits of the information Superhighway to all.

We respectfully urge the commission to hold the issuance of these valuable licenses in abeyance until such time as the broadcasting industry indicates its willingness to adequately compensate American Taxpayers for the use of their property.

Sincerely,

Joyce Miller
Executive Director

JM/wac

cc: Edward O. Fritts
National Association of Broadcasters

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DEFERRED
JUN 25 2009

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